

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 15 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) A method for processing images according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

splitting each of the first image data unit and the second image data unit into a plurality of blocks; and

measuring the similarity index between the first image data unit and the second image data unit on a block-to-block basis.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A method for processing images according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

splitting each of the first image data unit and the second image data unit into a plurality of blocks; and

specifying at least one block to specify the region in the first image data unit.

6. (currently amended) A method for processing images comprising the steps of:

obtaining image data units;

selecting a first image data unit as a reference for measuring a similarity index; ~~and~~

specifying a region for measuring the similarity index in the first image data unit;

determining, among attribute information of remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, whether attribute information in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the remaining image data units is identical to the attribute information of the first image data unit in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the first image data unit;

deciding, among remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, images having the attribute information identical to the attribute information of the first image data units determined, as a second image data unit to be compared with the first image data unit in the measuring similarity index;

~~specifying a region in a second image data unit in the remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, the corresponding region in the second image data unit corresponding to the specified region in the first image data unit, the second image data unit being determined by excluding, from a subject for measuring the similarity index, image data units having different attribute information from attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the image data units; and~~

measuring the similarity index between the specified region in the first image data unit and the specified corresponding region in the second image data unit.

7-8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) An apparatus for processing images according to claim 12 further comprising splitting means for splitting the image data units into a plurality of blocks,

wherein the similarity-measuring means measures the similarity index between the image data unit selected by the selecting means and an image data unit that is stored in the image-storing means and that is not excluded by the excluding means.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) An apparatus for processing images according to claim 12 further comprising splitting means for splitting the image data units into a plurality of blocks,

wherein the region-specifying means specifies at least one block to specify the region in the image data unit for measuring the similarity index.

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for processing images comprising:  
obtaining means for obtaining image data units;  
~~image storing means for storing the image data units;~~  
selecting means for selecting ~~an a first~~ image data unit as a reference for measuring similarity index; ~~and~~

first specifying means for specifying a region for measuring the similarity index in the selected image data unit;

determining means for determining, among attribute information of remaining image data units other than the first data unit, whether attribute information in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the remaining image data units is identical to the attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the first image data units;

deciding means for deciding, among remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, images having the attribute information identical to the attribute information of the first image data units determined by the determining means, as a second image data unit to be compared with the first image data unit in the measuring similarity index;

second specifying means for specifying a region in an image data unit in the remaining image data units stored in the image storing means,  
~~the~~corresponding region in the image data unit corresponding to the specified region in the selected image data unit, ~~the second image data unit being~~

~~determined by excluding, from a subject for measuring the similarity index, image data units having different attribute information from attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the image data units; and~~

similarity-measuring means for measuring the similarity index between the specified region in the ~~selected first~~ image data unit and the specified corresponding region in the second image data unit.

13-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A computer-readable program medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for processing images comprising:

obtaining image data units;

selecting a first image data unit as a reference for measuring a similarity index; ~~and~~

specifying a region for measuring the similarity index in the first image data unit;

determining, among attribute information of remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, whether attribute information in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the remaining image data units is identical to the attribute information of the first image data unit in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the first image data unit;

deciding, among remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, images having the attribute information identical to the attribute information of the first image data units determined, as a second image data unit to be compared with the first image data unit in the measuring similarity index;

~~specifying a region in a second image data unit in the remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, the corresponding region in the second image data unit corresponding to the specified region in the first image~~

~~data unit, the second image data unit being determined by excluding, from a subject for measuring the similarity index, image data units having different attribute information from attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the image data units; and~~

measuring the similarity index between the specified region in the first image data unit and the specified corresponding region in the second image data unit.

18. (currently amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium, the computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for processing images comprising:

obtaining image data units;

selecting a first image data unit as a reference for measuring a similarity index; ~~and~~

specifying a region for measuring the similarity index in the first image data unit;

determining, among attribute information of remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, whether attribute information in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the remaining image data units is identical to the attribute information of the first image data unit in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the first image data unit;

deciding, among remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, images having the attribute information identical to the attribute information of the first image data units determined, as a second image data unit to be compared with the first image data unit in the measuring similarity index;

~~specifying a region in a second image data unit in the remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, the corresponding region in the second image data unit corresponding to the specified region in the first image data unit, the second image data unit being determined by excluding, from a~~

~~subject for measuring the similarity index, image data units having different attribute information from attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the image data units; and~~

measuring the similarity index between the specified region in the first image data unit and the specified corresponding region in the second image data unit.